Making the rounds

Interim President Nagi Naganathan introduced himself to nursing student Ketei Chatman last week and chatted with pharmacy resident Gina Paletta, center, and pharmacy student Katie Yates. He took his initiative Walk with the President to Health Science Campus as part of making himself accessible to students in order to hear what they have to say. More walks will be announced soon.

Open enrollment period expanded as UT announces new benefit premiums

UT officials announced the open enrollment period originally slated to end in October would be extended to Friday, Nov. 14, to give employees and their families additional time to consider their options.

The University continues to deal with high health-care costs. For fiscal year 2014, UT’s health-care costs are more than $50 million, about $6.3 million higher than the previous year. Given this reality, effective Jan. 1, 2015, health-care premiums will change to 20 percent for all full-time employees, officials announced Sept. 30.

“This change is consistent with our efforts to achieve uniform health-care premiums for all of our employees on all campuses,” said Jovita Thomas-Williams, associate vice president for human resources and talent development. “These changes are a step in that direction.”

Pharmacy dean receives Legacy Award

By Cassandra DeYoung

Dr. Johnnie Early, dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, received the Legacy Award during the 10th Annual African American Legacy Project Legend’s Weekend.

The event took place Oct. 3-4 and is a celebration of the African American Legacy Project, which is dedicated to documenting and preserving the history of Northwest Ohio’s African-American community and its impact and influence beyond the state.

Since 2005, the Legacy Award has been given to individuals who are distinguished within the community, said Robert Smith, executive director of the African American Legacy Project.

“Dr. Early is a trailblazer and a good human being who takes ownership in what he does. He is a brilliant man and an inspiration to many,” Smith said.

Award recipients are chosen through a committee that evaluates the influence of applicants’ professional accomplishments, personal community engagement, and the extent to which their efforts inspire others.

“I am honored and humbled to receive this recognition,” Early said. “I hope that my personal story inspires young people to see the tremendous educational opportunities in the area of pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, and to use their talents to serve the world.”

A few years after receiving his doctorate in 1978, he became assistant dean for research at Florida Agricultural and Medical University’s College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences. He held the position until 1987, when he became dean of the college.

In 1994, Early was named dean of South Carolina College of Pharmacy, and then joined The University of Toledo in 2000 as dean of the College of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.

Vote for the UT bow tie!

The University of Toledo is in the running to have its bow tie featured during the World Series. Ken Rosenthal of Fox Sports will wear the winning bow ties during the upcoming American League Championship Series and World Series games. The UT bow tie has advanced past the first round of voting and needs your help to qualify for the final round. To vote, visit http://utoledo.do/worldseries.
UT prepared for Higher Learning Commission changes

By Aimee Portada

During a campus visit in 2012, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) voted to continue The University of Toledo’s accreditation, with the next comprehensive evaluation to be conducted in 2021-2022.

However, the commission has since revised its criteria and implemented a new pathway process, including more frequent visits. The restructured criteria are influenced by federal guidelines and place a greater focus on compliance and accountability issues.

The HLC is one of six regional institutional accreditors in the United States. The commission accredits degree-granting, post-secondary educational institutions.

To best prepare for the HLC visits and evaluations, the Office of the Provost established a steering committee led by Dr. Dorothea Sawicki, vice provost for health science affairs and university accreditation, along with co-chairs Dr. David Meabon, associate professor of educational leadership, and Dr. Akira Takashima, professor and chair of the Department of Medical Microbiology and Immunology.

“Accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission is important to the University as it signifies that UT is in compliance with all the standards and criteria needed by an institution of higher education in the United States,” Sawicki said. “Accreditation means we have been granted membership in the Higher Learning Commission, that we are qualified to participate in federal programs that provide student financial aid and faculty research funding, and that our undergraduate and graduate degrees and certificates are recognized as meeting this same high standard.”

Five criterion teams also have been created to prepare an evidence-based self-study documenting how The University of Toledo has met all five required criteria: Mission; Integrity: Ethical and Responsible Conduct; Teaching and Learning; Quality, Resources and Support; Teaching and Learning: Evaluation and Improvement; and Resources, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness.

The Office of Assessment, Accreditation and Program Review held a kickoff breakfast to recognize the criterion teams and to educate them, along with some senior leadership, about the HLC process and expectations.

“The kickoff breakfast was a chance to introduce the criterion team leaders and team members, and to thank them for the work they’ve already begun and will continue throughout this process,” said Heather Huntley, director of university accreditation and program review. “Some of the University’s senior leadership members were also invited so they could be aware of the faculty, staff and students participating on the teams, and to learn more about the Higher Learning Commission pathways and assurance argument process.”

The Higher Learning Commission will return to campus April 11-12, 2016, for the next scheduled visit.

Presidential search open forum transcripts posted

Transcripts for four presidential search open forums held in September have been posted on the presidential search website, utoledo.edu/presidential-search, and distributed to members of the presidential search committee and the Board of Trustees.

Comments submitted to the presidential search website also were posted.

“This information is critical for our partners at Witt/Kieffer as they reach out to potential presidential candidates and even more so for the search committee and the Board of Trustees as we integrate the views of the campus community into the selection process,” said Joseph Zerbey, chair of the presidential search committee and the Board of Trustees.

The open forums as well as the many conversations with small groups across the University community during the summer and early fall were an essential part of the process, said search consultant Dennis Barden, who along with colleague Carson Dye, has started the process of recruiting candidates.

“I think people who read the transcripts will see a number of common themes running throughout,” Barden said. “It is my belief that there is a lot of consistency across the UT family regarding the ideal next president being sought to lead The University of Toledo.”

Zerbey expressed his thanks to Larry Burns, UT vice president for external affairs, and his team for coordinating the open forums.

Interim president announces organizational structure changes

Interim President Nagi Naganathan announced two organizational changes last week, both aimed at student success. Naganathan said the Division of Student Affairs, under the leadership of Dr. Kaye Patten Wallace, senior vice president for student affairs, now reports directly to the president. The division had previously reported to the Office of the Provost.

“Students are the reason this University exists,” Naganathan said. “It’s important to me that as the primary advocate for students, Dr. Patten Wallace has a direct reporting line to me to discuss and advance student initiatives and concerns.”

“With a direct line, we can start to approach student issues as University issues, and nothing less,” said Clayton Notestine, Student Government president.

“This falls in line with the new approach of Student Government and UT being more transparent. I think students will notice that coming changes are going to be more prominent on campus.”

In addition, Naganathan said that Dr. Cam Cruickshank, vice president for enrollment management and online education, will continue reporting to the provost, but also will have a dotted-line relationship with the President’s Office.

“These changes will ensure that the Office of the President will be closely linked to two areas critical to The University of Toledo’s success,” Naganathan said.

Detroit Lions’ rep to speak at uHeart Digital Media Conference this week

By Kevin Bucher

When Jeff Sims, customer relationship manager and research manager for the Detroit Lions, comes to the uHeart Digital Media Conference, he will discuss recent innovations that have helped the team stay ahead of the game.

Some of the things Sims will touch on will be the team’s switch from Ticketmaster to Veritix. Currently, the Lions are the only team in the NFL that is not a Ticketmaster client.

“In addition, we were the first NFL team to go with variable pricing, where games are priced based on the value they offer. Our preseason prices this year were 71 percent lower than in 2013,” Sims said. Veritix provides paperless ticketing, event marketing and relationship management applications to artists, professional sports teams, universities, arts organizations and entertainment venues.

Sims, who received a bachelor’s degree in business administration with a major in marketing from UT in 2005, also hopes to discuss social media and digital media and how he uses them in his life and job.

“I don’t use social media for my job in the way you might expect. While we have a social media person who posts for our Lions’ account, I personally use social to keep up on industry trends,” Sims said. “I follow several developers and engineering folks to help me stay current on what’s going on and also learn new skills.”

Sims also plans to talk about the team’s upcoming customer relationship management project and how it helps the Lions keep creating positive customer experiences.

The uHeart Digital Media Conference will be held Thursday and Friday, Oct. 9 and Oct. 10, at the Radisson Hotel on UT’s Health Science Campus.

For more information and to register, visit http://uheartdigitalmedia.com.

Flu vaccinations available beginning Oct. 6

Go to http://utole.do/flu for the schedule
UT associate director recognized as emerging leader

By Cassandra DeYoung

Marcus Sneed, associate director for The University of Toledo’s Office of Alumni Relations, received the Emerging Leader Award from the African American Legacy Project.

The Emerging Leader Award was established in 2008 by the African American Legacy Project, a nonprofit organization that documents and preserves the history of northwest Ohio’s community and its impact and influence beyond the state’s borders.

The award honors those who show dedication to issues of education, professionalism and character.

“Emerging leaders are those who are in the beginning process of building a presence within the community,” said Robert Smith, executive director of the African American Legacy Project. “We look at people who impact and serve the community.”

A Toledo native, Sneed graduated from Jesup W. Scott High School and The University of Toledo. Shortly after receiving his bachelor’s degree in organizational development and management in 2007, Sneed joined the UT Alumni Relations staff as an outreach coordinator. He then became assistant director of alumni relations and recently has been promoted to associate director of alumni relations.

During his career at his alma mater, he has helped secure scholarships for African-American students and continues to be a voice and advocate for African-American alumni. He is dedicated to promoting higher education and serves as a mentor and confidant to many African-American males on campus.

Additionally, he has devoted many hours to the Black Alumni Affiliate, the UT college chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and local nonprofits.

Sneed also is working on his master of business administration degree with a focus on organizational leadership at the University’s College of Business and Innovation.

He received the award during the 10th Annual African American Legacy Project Legend’s Weekend, which took place Oct. 3-4.

In记memoriam

Jeanne H. (Heesen) Smith, Toledo, a typist in the College of Education from 1982 until her retirement in 1992, died Sept. 28 at age 90.

Robert K. “Bob” Longley, Toledo, who was the tennis coach from 1979 to 1985, died Sept. 25 at age 91.

Robert S. Sullivant, Toledo, former UT administrator and professor emeritus of political science, died Sept. 25 at age 89. He came to the University in 1973 to serve as executive vice president. As the second ranking administrator, he oversaw alumni, public information, development, community services and government relations. He also was the chair of UT’s Fiscal Resources and Planning Board. In 1988, Sullivant retired and returned to the classroom to teach. An authority on the nationalities in the former Soviet Union and on the Soviet Communist Party, he was the author of Soviet Politics and the Ukraine, 1917-1957.
Environmental obligations: Using the law to protect Earth topic of Oct. 9 talk
By Rachel Phipps

“Nature’s Trust: Environmental Law for a New Ecological Age” will be the topic of a lecture Thursday, Oct. 9, at noon in the Law Center McQuade Law Auditorium.

Mary Wood, the Philip H. Knight Professor of Law and faculty director of the Environmental and Natural Resources Law Program at the University of Oregon School of Law, will be the speaker.

She will introduce her new book, Nature’s Trust, which provides a strategy to protect the Earth endowment as the just inheritance for all citizens, those living and those to come.

The Earth faces extraordinary damage, Wood posits in her book, as it enters a new ecological age brought about by climate change. Humanity needs to protect the remaining resources essential to its survival. Yet instead of using environmental law to protect nature, regulatory agencies around the world use the law to permit corporations and industries to inflict further damage to priceless resources. This imperils the future.

Wood will argue for a fiduciary obligation to safeguard ecology on the part of government. She describes an ancient yet enduring principle known as the public trust doctrine that designates government officials as trustees of public resources. Such officials remain charged with the legal obligation to protect and restore natural wealth belonging to citizens.

She has published extensively on climate crises, natural resources and native law issues. Wood originated the approach called atmospheric trust litigation to hold governments worldwide accountable for reducing carbon pollution within their jurisdictions, and her research is being used in cases and petitions brought on behalf of children and youth throughout the United States and in other countries.

For more information on the free, public talk, go to utole.do/law.
Senior lecturer directing Toledo Rep’s edgy reading ‘Detroit’

Dislocation, dislocation, dislocation.
Where has the American dream gone?
That’s one of the questions Lisa D’Amour addresses in her play “Detroit.”

The Toledo Rep will present a reading of the work Friday and Saturday, Oct. 10 and 11, at 8 p.m. in the Valentine’s Studio A Theatre, 410 Adams St.

Jennifer Rockwood, UT senior lecturer of theatre, will direct the reading of “Detroit,” which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and won the Obie Award for Best New American Play.

At times blistering, quirky and humorous, the 2010 work spotlights two suburban couples as they walk a tightrope between boredom and self-destruction while yearning for upward mobility in a time of economic uncertainty.

“I love this play and I think it will speak to friends who grew up in the suburbs that are so different and ‘gated’ now. There was a time when everyone knew everyone and neighbors were friendly, and block parties and barbecues were happening a lot,” Rockwood said. “It was the American dream to own a house in the suburbs; not so much anymore.”

Four years ago, Rockwood headed west to see “Detroit.”

“I saw it produced by the Steppenwolf Theatre Company in Chicago with Laurie Metcalf, who was on ‘Rosanne,’ and fell in love with it,” she recalled.

Rockwood, who is teaching part time since retiring, believes the reading will appeal to many who long for simpler times — and to laugh.

“I think we all pine and mourn our old neighborhoods and sidewalks, special childhood places, backyard BBQs, and how it used to be hanging out in our yards,” Rockwood said. “I generally pick plays to speak to difficult communication and growing up in America.”

The cast features Kate Abu-Absi, director of UT’s Arts Living and Learning Community, as Sharon; UT alumni John DuVall as Ben and Jeffrey J. Albright as Frank; and Cindy Bilby as Mary, Lane Hakel as Kenny, and Qarie Marshall as the narrator.

“My cast is very funny and poignant,” Rockwood said. “The play goes all over the psychic map; because of that, the script is strong for a staged reading.”

Tickets for the reading are $10.
For more information or to purchase tickets, call 419.243.9277 or go to toledorep.org.

GRILLING SATIRE: Cindy Bilby, John DuVall, center, and Lane Hakel rehearsed a scene from “Detroit.”


The University of Toledo Press will celebrate the publication of its two latest titles with “A Little Bit Polka, a Little Bit Rock ‘n’ Roll” party Friday, Oct. 17, from 5 to 8 p.m. on the fifth floor of Carlson Library.


The event will feature music by two Toledo bands: Polka Zone and Voodoo Libido. Polka Zone is a long-standing local band that plays traditional polka music. Voodoo Libido is a rock and blues band featuring John Rockwood.

Polish-American food will be served, and a cash bar will be available. And there will be a dance floor for those who want to kick up their heels to polka music, rock music or both.

Copies of both books will be available for sale at a special price of $20 (cash or checks only) and can be signed by the authors at the party.

The free event is open to the public, but reservations are requested. RSVP by Monday, Oct. 13, by calling 419.530.8549.
October events emphasize spirit of safety

By Cynthia Nowak

October events emphasize spirit of safety

Halloween casts a long shadow over October, but a monthlong calendar of safety-themed University events takes the focus beyond ghouls and zombies to engage everyone in keeping our campus safe and welcoming.

Building on October’s national designation as Crime Prevention Month, the Division of Student Affairs is bringing back its Not On My Watch initiative, a student-centered partnership between the division, the Center for International Studies and Programs, Student Government and The University of Toledo Police Department (UTPD).

Not On My Watch offers students four weeks of programs and activities relating to safety, showing them how they can become active participants in their own well-being.

“What you learn from Not On My Watch can be used throughout the entire year,” said Virginia Speight, director of residence life.

“Because they were so successful last year, this year’s Not On My Watch safety programs and activities will be even better at helping our students adopt habits that will have a positive effect on their safety and on campus safety overall.”

UT Police Chief Jeff Newton added, “We’re very pleased to continue Not On My Watch. Educating and empowering our students is an effort that goes on all year long and helps create the safest campus environment possible.”

As part of the October events, UTPD will conduct an ALICE — alert, lockdown, inform, counter, evacuate — training that covers effective responses to violent intruder attacks, including active shooter situations.

October is also designated as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, for which the Counseling Center created special programs and activities that provide another vital piece of Not On My Watch.

Among the events to raise awareness of domestic violence is Silent Witness, an international initiative that uses life-sized exhibits as a memorial to women murdered in such cases.

A vital component of educating people on domestic violence is reaching men and making them allies, said Dr. Stan Edwards, director of the Counseling Center: “That’s why we’re also including activities geared to the men of UT, and why we have activist Rob Okun coming to campus on November 3 to talk about how men all over the world are redefining the definition of masculinity to create healthier lives.”

Supported by the Counseling Center, UT Student Government is playing a key role in spreading the message of the national “It’s On Us” campaign launched last month by President Barack Obama, aimed at ending sexual assaults on campuses nationwide. UT Student Government is creating an informational video, and UT students will be able to play an active part in the campaign by taking a pledge to be proactive in helping stop campus assaults.

“This is a great partnership,” said clinical social worker Angela Daigneault, who heads the Counseling Center’s Sexual Assault Education and Prevention Program. “Our Student Government representatives are very enthusiastic about promoting this initiative, and their efforts will be critical in getting the entire student population on board.”

The Not On My Watch programs hosted by various University departments can be found online at utole.do/notonmywatch.
Open enrollment

continued from p. 1

The new rate of 20 percent will apply to all full-time non-union faculty and professional staff.

Thomas-Williams said UT is also committed to developing wellness initiatives, such as health and diagnostic screenings, fitness and dietary recommendations, and other measures to support and encourage healthy lifestyles for employees and their families.

She noted that the recently approved three-year contracts with Communication Workers of America Local 4319 and American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Ohio Council 8 and AFSCME Local 2415 each brought members to the 20 percent premium mark. The University of Toledo Police Patrolman’s Association members also have 20 percent health-care premiums. The University is currently in negotiations with the UT chapter of the American Association of University Professors representing tenured and tenure-track faculty and lecturers.

For more information on open enrollment, go to hr.utoledo.edu.
THE SECOND ANNUAL uHEART DIGITAL MEDIA CONFERENCE, SPONSORED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO, WILL TAKE PLACE ON

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9

AND

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10

ON THE UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO’S HEALTH SCIENCE CAMPUS AT THE RADISSON HOTEL.

WHETHER YOU ARE A BEGINNER OR A SOCIAL MEDIA GURU, THERE WILL BE A BREAKOUT SESSION FOR YOU! THE CONFERENCE WILL FEATURE INDUSTRY LEADERS FROM COMPANIES SUCH AS CHRYSLER AND GOOGLE, INCLUDING KEYNOTE SPEAKER, BRIAN KIBBY, PRESIDENT OF MCGRAW-HILL.

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